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NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

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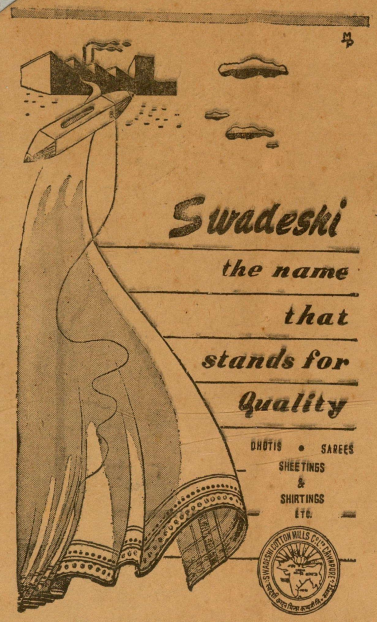

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One Year Of The Republic

JANUARY

26 India proclaimed a "sovereign democratic republic." Celebrations all over the country.
28 Supreme Court inaugurated at Delhi. Members of Parliament sworn in. Posthumous Maha Vir Chakra awarded to Brig. Usman.
30 Parliament addressed by the President, Dr. Rajendra Prasad.
31 Deshmukh Award on income-tax allotment to States published.

FEBRUARY

1 Debate in Parliament on the President's Address.
4 Justice Bagge Tribunal's award on Indo-Pakistan border disputes.
7 Government of India White Paper on Indo-Pakistan Trade Relations published.
12 Kashmir debate in Security Council adjourned.
20 Death of Shri Sarat Chandra Bose at Calcutta.
25 Parliament passed Preventive Detention Bill.

MARCH

6 Death of Dr. Sachchidananda Sinha at Patna.
15 Terms of reference of Planning Commission announced.

APRIL

1 Indian State forces, postal system, income-tax, etc. taken over by Centre.
2 Nehru-Liaquat Talks began in Delhi.
5 Labour Bills referred to Select Committee.
8 Nehru-Liaquat Pact on Minorities signed at Delhi. Dr. S.P. Mookerjee and Mr. K. C. Neogy resigned.
12 Sir Owen Dixon appointed Mediator for Kashmir by the Security Council.
18 International Bank announced third loan of 18.5 million dollars to India for developing Damodar Valley.

MAY

2 Pakistan Press Delegation arrived in India. Chandernagore merged with Indian Union.
4 Prime Minister reshuffled Cabinet.
9 Rajkumari Amrit Kaur elected President of World Health Organisation.
11 India and Pakistan protested against Racial Grouping Bill in South Africa.
30 Sydney Conference concluded: Technical Aid to South-East Asia promised.
29 Shri C. Deshmukh, Shri Sri Prakasa and Shri Ajit Prasad Jain sworn in as new Ministers for Finance, Commerce and Rehabilitation respectively.

JUNE

2 Sir B. N. Rau became President of the Security Council. Prime Minister Nehru sailed for Indonesia.
7 Shri Nehru addressed Indonesian Parliament in Jakarta.
8 India declined participation in R.T.C. as a sequel to South Africa's attitude in respect of Group Areas Bill.
12 Popular Ministers took office in Hyderabad.
13 Shri Jagjivan Ram elected President of the I.L.O.
23 The President issued an Ordinance deleting section 14 from the Preventive Detention Act, 1950.
29 India agreed to U. N. resolution on the outbreak of hostilities in Korea.

JULY

2 Yusuf Meherally, Socialist leader, died in Bombay.
11 Mission of the People's Republic of China arrived in Calcutta.
14 Prime Minister Nehru appealed to Russia and the U.S.A. for peaceful solution of Korean dispute.
15 Shri C. Rajagopalachari sworn in as Cabinet Minister.
16 Generalissimo Stalin's reply to Prime Minister Nehru's message on Korean crisis received in Delhi.

AUGUST

1 Treaties of friendship and trade and commerce signed between Nepal and India.
6 Mr. G. N. Bardoloi, Chief Minister of Assam died.
11 Parliament approved the Treaty of Friendship signed between India and Iran.
13 Col. Unni Nayar, Indian Delegate to the U. N. Commission on Korea, killed in a mine explosion in Korea.
15 Third anniversary of India's independence celebrated.
16 Upper Assam hit hard by earthquake.

SEPTEMBER

2 Sri Purushottamdas Tandon elected President of Nasik Congress.
9 Gen. Yuan Chung-hsien, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China, arrived in India. Prime Minister Nehru appealed for contributions to Assam Relief Fund.
17 India Government accorded recognition to Israel.
20 56th Session of the Congress met at Nasik, Sri Purushottamdas Tandon presiding.
30 Indo-Afghan Treaty of Friendship signed.

OCTOBER

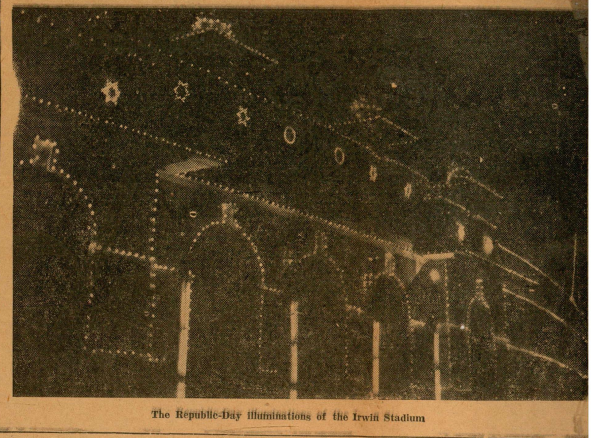
2 Gandhiji's birthday celebrations.
3 Pandit Nehru inaugurated the Eleventh Pacific Relations Conference at Lucknow.
5 Direct radio telephone link with Indonesia established.
25 Peking announced invasion of Tibet—The Government of India sent a letter to Peking expressing surprise and regret at the invasion of Tibet.
28 All-India Convention of Working Journalists at Delhi

NOVEMBER

1 Chittaranjan Loco Workshop opened.
2 Democratic Front formed inside the Congress.
7 King of Nepal took refuge in Indian Embassy, Khatmandu.
11 Nepal Ruler arrived in New Delhi.
12 Insurrection in Nepal.
26 Prime Minister opened National Metallurgical Laboratory at Jamshedpur.
27 Nepal's Envoys arrived in Delhi for consultations.

DECEMBER

2 U. N. General Assembly recommended suspension of Group Areas Act in South Africa.
5 Death of Sri Aurobindo.
5 New Treaty signed between Indian and Sikkim.
6 Foreign Affairs debate in Parliament.
15 Death of Sardar Patel.
21 Prime Minister Nehru read to Parliament a memorandum sent to Nepal proposing reforms.
22 Winter Session of Parliament ended.
26 Central Cabinet reshuffled and Ministries regrouped.
28 Indo-U.S. Technical Aid Pact signed.
30 [illegible] ashes immersed at the Sangam.



The Republic-Day illuminations of the Irwin Stadium

Great Dissenters In Congress History

By V. Subramania

FOR nearly twenty years since its birth, the sessions of the Indian National Congress went on in an unruffled atmosphere. Resolutions of royalty alternating with flowery speeches of mild criticism lent an air of drama to them. Tagore has caught and preserved for us that semi-artificial atmosphere in his immortal short story "We Crown The King." S. N. Bannerjee, Gokhale, Mehta and Sastri were the chief actors in the drama.

Tilak

Then as a bolt from the blue came Tilak, a man who had shed all fear of gaol and social calumny, early in his life. The mild moderates who first looked amusedly on him as a fire-eater soon found that he was an opponent of the strongest steel, as firm in action as in speech. When in a futile attempt to exclude him from the Congress, the moderates gathered at Surat, they found that they had counted without the host and the session ended in a fiasco. Tilak was the first great dissenter who contributed much to make the Congress a fighting organization. A matchless scholar, philogist and author, his public life gave the lie to the popular notion that high scholarship and vigorous action go ill together. He lived the Bhagavatgita in his life and impregnated the Congress with its militant philosophy of action. Sublimated opportunism and selfless heroism were the basic principles of his politics. He is the father of the modern Congress, for he prepared the ground for Mahatma's work. Truly did Mahatma characterize him as "a giant among men."

Das And Motilal

The Mahatma cannot be called a dissenter in the right sense of the word, since he practically remained the master of the Congress from the time of his entry to his last moment. With the reputation of his victories in South Africa, he was welcomed with open arms while he set foot on Indian soil. But after the suspension of Satyagraha by the Mahatma and his incarceration, the Congress once again experienced the throes of a schism. C. R. Das and Motilal could not silently suffer his paralysing suspension of political activity and allow the Government to pack the assemblies with their yesmen. The Swarajist Party came into being through their efforts, to fight their battle on the parliamentary front. There are people who would describe it not as a progressive dissent but as a mistaken reaction. But no one who thinks of Deshbandhu and Motilal could think of moderation in the same breath for they were born fighters.

Rajaji—A Dissenter

Curiously enough, fate in a mood of malicious irony had reserved for Rajaji, the most ardent follower and interpreter of Gandhiji, the role of a dissenter from him. Rajaji is the most misunderstood of politicians, praised and blamed always for the wrong reasons. He thought that Pakistan on basis of a district-wise plebiscite was worth conceding on principle to catch the unique opportunity of immediate power. To him World War II at its turning point in 1942 appeared an opportunity that came once only during a nation's lifetime. By gaining power in India, they would be helping their supporters to win power in Britain and by taking part in the South-East Asian War, India would solve all her problems of freedom as well as national reconstruction. This was in essence Rajaji's line of argument. Like Count Cavour who made Savoy participate in the Crimean War to gain the right of raising the problem of Italy in Europe's council table, Rajaji could not stand and see the golden opportunity not only for freedom but reconstruction as well slip by. To accuse him as the Cassandra of Indian politics and as the indirect author of Pakistan is the height of folly, for Congress leadership conceded with open eyes during peace what Rajaji was prepared to concede in principle during an emergency for very big stakes. Again by his astuteness, Rajaji forced Jinnah to make confessions and admissions on Pakistan which put people on the alert about the working of the League Fuehrer's mind. The country had been grudgingly forced to admit his wisdom and foresight in a manner least pleasant to him.

Subhas Bose

The greatest of dissenters was certainly Subhas, affectionately known in India as Netaji. Endowed from his very birth with supreme qualities of leadership, he saw the defects in the methods of Mahatma very early. Time and again, he pointed out that in making us shed our fear, he had indirectly exalted some of our faults that led to our downfall and that Mahatma's nobility towards opponents would cost the country dearly in the long run. Unlike Jawaharlal, who in spite of his disagreements, accepted Gandhian leadership because of the personality of the Mahatma and S. Srinivasa Iyengar, who kept out of politics unable to pit himself against the mighty Mahatma, Subhas gave continuous fight to Congress rightists as much as to British imperialists. He proved his powers of organization at the very start of his political career when, within a single day, he had organized such a complete 'hartal' against the visit of the Prince of Wales in Calcutta that even C. R. Das was wonderstruck.

Subhas & Gandhiji

Bose's infinite capacity for pains and delving deep into trivial details were matched only by his equally great capacity for the loftiest idealism in politics, philosophy and economics. In judging and assessing men at first sight shrewdly and in organizing ability, he was greater than the hero of Bardoli while in inspiring idealism, personal magnetism and wide popularity, he was Patel's superior and the equal of Nehru, whose intellectual detachment cripples him as an organizer. The Mahatma, a prophet first and a statesman later, could not help spiritualising politics while Nehru brought up in western education could not help being secular and western-minded. It was the unique triumph of Subhas's character that being so deeply learned in Hindu philosophy and spiritually inclined he could so scrupulously keep his religion and politics absolutely apart. In the moral plane, Mahatma stands high among the prophets, on the plane of political achievement Subhas can claim with the Mahatma an equal share in the fatherhood of the nation by his unique service through the I.N.A. and the Azad Hind Government.

Jayaprakash

The latest of dissenters, Jayaprakash is the glamour man of Indian politics. No mass leader could have served better probation to leadership than he had seen life firsthand over a wide part of the world during his most impressionable years. He had worked in the meanest of occupations, suffered the worst of jail life and like De Valera has escaped from jail to organized an effective underground movement. He is widely read and has shown a capacity to make big decisions, viz., during the August movement and now in seceding from the Congress. Thus in experience of life and in the capacity to take firm decisions, he scores over the intellectual and often vacillating Panditji. Jayaprakash however suffers from divided loyalties even now.

Jayaprakash had in the Sardar an opponent worthy of his steel. With eventual victory of socialism in the land is certain, it will not be long before the principles of socialism that will be on trial but the competency of socialists or any other party to reconcile the needs of security with the principles of socialist economy in actual work. On the other side, Jayaprakash with the efficient and unscrupulous communists to contend with, with their long experience and established position in the field of labour. The latest dissenter thus has no rosy path before him with all his ability, for in the critical condition of our new-won freedom, dissence needs have made caution and realism the supreme virtues of the hour.

Some Heroines Who Fought For Indian Freedom

By "Chittra"

IN the crowded galaxy of eminent women who made history by their service and sacrifice in the national struggle, the name of Kasturba Gandhi shines with lustre all her own. She was not very much educated, and was extremely orthodox. She was married to the genius of her age. At times she found it a tremendous job to keep pace with him. She had to struggle hard to understand that unique personality and often had to suffer humiliation and pain. She will be long remembered for the moving letter that she wrote to her son, Hiralal, who was persuaded by some Muslims to embrace Islam. In the Aga Khan Palace Prison in Poona she died suffering for the country's cause.

Sarojini Naidu

Mrs. Sarojini Naidu, the song-bird of Indian politics, the heroine of many a platform and the gracious lady of unique charm, will always be remembered by her grateful countrymen for the services that she rendered to the country. She inspired the womanhood of India to make great sacrifices and herself always accepted suffering with a smile on her lips. As a leader, she was great, as an orator remarkable and as a Governor of a State she was liked and admired by the officials and non-officials alike. To meet her even for a while was to be acquainted with urbanity and culture. Her death was a terrible blow to the whole country and the people miss her greatly. Though she is no more with us, but her spirit will always inspire us.

Kamala Nehru

Kamla Nehru, that kindly light, died in harness and could not see much of life. How wonderful it would have been, had she been alive to see her great husband at the helm of affairs and her country free from bondage. She was a woman with a distinctive personality of her own and was always missed by her comrades and co-workers when she was not with them. Her body was a broken flower, but the fragrance of her patriotic spirit was intoxicating. She was like a lamp of crystal with a golden flame. Her sympathies with the suffering humanity were as great as her soul. She represented the new womanhood of India, but was fully aware of the old values and always stuck to them firmly and intelligently. She was a remarkable woman in many ways and how much do we miss her now.

[illegible] was frail but her spirit was valiant. She was never pessimistic and always suffered cheerfully.

Sucheta Kripalani

Have you ever met that sweet, p[illegible] and the famous constructive wo[illegible] worker of India—Mrs. Sucheta Kr[illegible]lani. She was a member of the [illegible] gress Working Committee for sev[illegible] years and has done good work for [illegible] gees. She was a member of the [illegible] Legislative Assembly, and now [illegible] member of the Indian Parliament. [illegible] is a sweet singer and was well kn[illegible] for her songs during Gandhiji's pr[illegible] meetings. Those who work with [illegible] admire her and find her an extrem[illegible] amiable person. She is the wife o[illegible] great thinker and a man who pula[illegible] with real brilliance and whose sarc[illegible] is deadlier than sword. As a spea[illegible] she is eloquent, convincing and rea[illegible]able. She is known for honesty of [illegible] pose and sterling integrity.

Vijay Lakshmi

Mrs. Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit is kn[illegible] all over the world as India's wo[illegible] leader and as Jawaharlal Nehru's si[illegible] She is charming and intelligent and [illegible] seen to jell along with her country[illegible] during the freedom movements. Sh[illegible] a fine speaker and a splendid host. [illegible] is sweet by temperament and extrem[illegible] courteous. She pleaded India's cas[illegible] the U.N.O. with remarkable ability[illegible] several occasions and won world-[illegible] recognition. In her case, we can ri[illegible] by say: "Grow old along with me, [illegible] best is yet to be."

Aruna Asaf Ali

Mrs. Aruna Asaf Ali is the [illegible] leader of the Left and has parted [illegible] pany with the Congress, and, perh[illegible] also with the Socialist Party. Her[illegible] ture is a big question mark. Sh[illegible] the wife of the Governor of Orissa, [illegible] she does not share her husbad's po[illegible] cal views. His approach to problem[illegible] cool and constitutional and she [illegible] fire-brand. Her name was a house[illegible] word in the 1942 movement and [illegible] effectively challenged the power[illegible] bureaucracy and evaded arrest succ[illegible] fully. She was the despair of [illegible] police, and the hope of her people. [illegible] is a remarkable woman and has [illegible] sion for revolutionary programmes.

Prabhavati Devi

Prabhavati Devi is the wife of [illegible] distinguished Socialist leader, Mr. [illegible] Prakash Narayan. She keeps his [illegible] pany wherever he goes and looks [illegible] him. She is one of the most sin[illegible] women that I have have ever [illegible] across. She enjoyed the confidenc[illegible] Gandhiji and always followed him [illegible] plicitly. She is absolutely honest [illegible] she suffered a lot for her coun[illegible] cause. She is unostentatious and h[illegible] working.

Indian News Chronicle

Republic-Day Supplement

"We are citizens of no mean country and we are proud of the land of our birth, of our people, our culture and traditions. That pride should not be for a romanticized past to which we want to cling on to; nor should it encourage exclusiveness or want of appreciation of other ways than ours. It must never allow us to forget our many weaknesses and failings or blunt our longing to be rid of them. We have a long way to go and much leeway to make up before we can take our proper station with others in the van of human civilization and progress. And we have to hurry, for the time at our disposal is limited and the pace of the world grows ever swifter. It was India's way in the past to welcome and absorb other cultures. That is much more necessary today for we march to the One World of tomorrow where national cultures will be intermingled with the international culture of the human race. We shall therefore seek wisdom and knowledge and friendship and comradeship wherever we can find them, and co-operate with others in common task, but we are no suppliants for others' favours and patronage. Thus we shall remain true Indians and Asians, and become at the same time good internationalists and world citizens."

—*Jawaharlal Nehru.*

HAIL INDIA!

THE day, thou arosest, Mother India, from the ocean's azure deep,
What gladsome accents, what homage high and peals of joy didst the world upheave!
That day there dawned in the radiance divine, the earth's deep gloom of night.
"Hail thee, Mother, Nurse of the World, Saviour ours," greeted all in delight.

Blessed the Earth became at the touch of the lotus-feet of thine,
"Hail India, Mother of the World," the Earth did greet, "O, world's deity divine!"

On thy crest a snowy crown, round thy waist a girdle of waves,
On thy breast a string of pearls—the Rivers Five, Jumna and Ganges—sways.
Thou art aflame awful, Mother dear, sometime, in the drear desert scene,
Then smiling sometime, thy bounty thou scatterest in happy harvest green.

Blessed the Earth is at the touch of the lotus-feet of thine,
"Hail India, Mother of the World," the Earth does greet, "O, world's deity divine!"

The wind above in the void, blowing and roaring fierce, unceasing,
Melts into cuckoo notes and rolls at thy feet a-kissing.
The clouds above in peals of thunder burst in a deluge of watery shower
And at thy feet a wondrous flowery fragrance weaves the forest-bower.

Blessed the Earth is at the touch of the lotus-feet of thine,
"Hail India, Mother of the World," the Earth does greet, "O, world's deity divine!"

Mother! on thy breast the peace, in thy voice the world of cheer,
Thy hands scatter food and thy feet the freedom dear.
Mother! for children thine, what joy and pain dost thou not feel!
Saviour of the universe! Mother India! Nurse of the world's ill!
Blessed the Earth is at the touch of the lotus-feet of thine,
"Hail India, Mother of the World," the Earth does greet, "O, world's deity divine!"

—*Dwijendralal Roy*

"Just one year has elapsed since India became a Sovereign Democratic Republic and the Constitution framed by the Constituent Assembly came into force..... Our Constitution has come into force, but we are still passing through a period of transition and are being governed by certain transitory provisions laid down by it.

"Our work as a free nation has just begun. We are confronted with difficulties within and the horizon is overcast with dark clouds without. We have to gird up our loins and face them. God helps those who help themselves. Let us deserve God's help.

"We hold and believe that armed conflict and war solve no existing problems but create new ones and with the progress in the invention of destructive weapons now achieved, a war spells ruin and devastation on an unprecedented scale and threatens the extinction of modern civilization. With that conviction our Prime Minister has used all the prestige of his great personality and the goodwill of this country to limit the scope and extent of conflict. The deep wounds of the last World War have not yet been healed even in countries which are supposed to have won it—not to speak of those that lost it. We can only hope and pray that humanity will be spared another disaster.

—*Rajendra Prasad.*

REPUBLIC OF INDIA

26th January, 1950.

WE THE PEOPLE OF INDIA, having solemnly resolved to constitute India into a **SOVEREIGN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC** and to secure to all its citizens:

JUSTICE, social, economic and political: **LIBERTY** of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship:

EQUALITY of status and of opportunity: and to promote among them all

FRATERNITY assuring the dignity of the individual and the unity of the Nation:

IN OUR CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY DO HEREBY ADOPT, ENACT AND GIVE TO OURSELVES THIS CONSTITUTION.

Arteries Of The Republic

By Shri Khurshed Lal

Deputy Minister for Communi cations.

A VISITOR to India who travels about the country by air, sees only its big towns with their modern system of Post Offices, Telegraph Offices and Telephones, can have no idea of the magnitude of its problems of communications. In order to appreciate the problem one has to remember that India after partition has an area of 10,66,413 sq. miles with a population of about 320 millions. Most of these people live in villages of which there are 1,20,580 with a population of 500 and above and 16,178 with a population of 2,000 and above. Most of these villages are yet unconnected with metalled roads and the only means of reaching them are bullock carts, while in the hilly tracts even this means of conveyance is not available and the post has to be carried by means of mules and runners.

Compared with countries in Europe, the communication problems in India are of a continent and not of a country. This is apparent from the fact that an inland letter may have to travel 2,400 miles before reaching its destination and an inland telegram in India may have to be carried over the wires for a distance of 2,868 miles. It is obvious that no development in this land is possible without a proper system of communications which would provide proper arteries for the healthy flow of its life blood. It is my purpose in this article to give a brief survey of the existing means of communications and what we are planning to do to expand and develop them.

POST OFFICES

Let me begin with the Post Office. Although the postal system in India as a regular organisation dates back to the year 1766, its growth has been rather slow. When India achieved independence on 15th August, 1947, the total number of Post Offices in the country was 24,289. This number obviously was too small for the country and there still are thousands and thousands of villages which have no post office or which are visited by a Postman once in a week or a fortnight. The Post-War Plan for the development of Post Offices provided that every village, or a group of villages, with a population of 2,000 should have a post office so that no man should ordinarily, that is except in sparsely populated areas, have to walk more than five miles to transact business at a post office. In pursuance of this plan 13,128 Post Offices were opened, mostly in rural areas, between the 15th August, 1947 and 31st March, 1950. In April this year it was decided that all villages with a population of 2,000 should be provided with a Post Office by 31st March 1951. This meant the opening of above 4,800 new Post Offices in one year. Out of these about 3,400 have been opened by now, but it is feared that the programme will now have to be slowed down on account of financial stringency. The Department has also carried out experiments with a mobile post office to serve rural areas. The experiments had to be discontinued because the financial loss was heavy. But the experience gained is being studied with a view to making the experiment in other parts of the country.

Shri Krishna Prasada, Director-General, Post and Telegraphs, is seen in the picture booking a telephone call at the Telephone Exchange, during the courtesy week.

NIGHT AIRMAIL

Simultaneously with the increase in the number of Post Offices, the Indian Postal Department is also taking steps to accelerate the transmission of mails in this country. In a country of vast distances like ours, letters have to travel quite a long time before they reach their destination. In order to shorten this time, the All-up Mail scheme was introduced from 1st April 1949. Under this scheme all first class mail which has to travel over a route where air lift is possible is carried by air without any additional surcharge. The night air mail scheme connecting the four important towns of Delhi, Calcutta, Bombay and Madras was also introduced primarily with a view to accelerating the transmission of mails. The combined result of both these schemes is that most letters posted in this country after travelling distances can be delivered the next day. To give an example, a letter posted in Srinagar (Kashmir) in the morning is now delivered in Travancore the next evening, the distance travelled being over 2,000 miles.

Another big problem facing the Postal Department is the provision of proper accommodation for Post Office as well as for the residence of the staff. The Postal buildings so far were the most neglected in the country and any odd place was deemed to be good now in hand for providing proper buildings for Post Offices in which work may be carried on under reasonable conditions. The Department is also proceeding ahead with the provision of residential accommodation and other amenities for the staff.

A great strain was put on the Postal Department during the war years. The work expanded by leaps and bounds and the requirements of staff grew at a tremendous pace. Normally, recruitment to the Postal Department is by a competitive examination, but the rules had to be relaxed during the war years. The result was a loss in efficiency. The Department is opening a number of Training Schools to train the existing staff as well as the future entrants. A number of other schemes for providing amenities to the staff are also in hand. The Department is also actively considering several schemes of installation of mechanical equipments for saving labour and time, e.g. conveyor bands, automatic stamp cancelling machines, slot machines for vending postcards and postal stationery.

THE TELEGRAPH

Concurrently with the Postal system the Telegraph system in India is also developing gradually. One hundred years ago almost to the day, what was then the longest telegraph line in the world, was put up in Bengal. Today the telegraph network covers over 7,000,000 miles of wire and the telegraph branch of the Posts and Telegraphs Department contains 89 departmental Telegraph Offices and about 15,000 other offices which handle telegrams. But in spite of this, the telegraph system in India, considering the size and population of the country, is still in its infancy and a large number of isolated towns and villages are without telegraph facilities. Before the last war, development on the telecommunication side was comparatively small and the result was that in 1941 frantic efforts had to be made to put up additional lines of communications to meet the needs of Defence. During the war, the assets of the Telecommunications branch were almost doubled.

The development of telephones in India before the war was even slower. The number of telephones was very small and they were available only in big towns and only the government offices and big business houses had a telephone connection. The demand for telephones grew tremendously during the War, and the Department was faced with great difficulties in providing telephone connections even for essential war requirements. Since the achievement of independence the pace of development of telegraphs and telephones has been accelerated.

During the 5 years commencing from 1950-51, the following major schemes in Telecommunications expansion are proposed to be executed:—

(i) Installation of 15 automatic telephone exchanges in Calcutta to provide for 54,000 lines. This scheme will treble the exchange capacity in Calcutta. Work on this project is already in progress.

(ii) Expansion of Bombay telephone system by 18,200 lines in the first instance and another 20,000 lines subsequently. This will practically double the present exchange capacity.

(iii) Expansion of Madras Auto system by 3,000 lines.

(iv) Installation of a 4,000 line exchange in Delhi city.

(v) Installation of automatic exchanges covering the entire Bihar Coalfield area which is at present very poorly served by telephones.

(vii) Installation of a 3,000 line automatic exchange at Bangalore.

(viii) Installation of a 1,500 line automatic exchange at Hyderabad.

In addition to these large individual works, automatization of the manual telephone systems of Lucknow and Patna, installation of additional equipment in the automatic exchanges at Amritsar and Kanpur, expansion of the exchange capacity at other places and opening new exchanges are proposed to be undertaken on an average, about 25 new telephone exchanges would be opened every year.

To provide additional trunk outlets, 12 channel telephone carrier systems are proposed to be installed between Calcutta and Patna, New Delhi and Amritsar and New Delhi and Kanpur. The overhead lines between Bombay and Thana are to be replaced by under-ground cables and it is the intention later to keep long distance cables between Delhi and Bombay and Delhi and Calcutta. These cables would ensure that there is no delay in the trunk service between these three important cities. Besides linking these major cities by cables, it is proposed to instal high power wireless transmitters at Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta and Madras.

Side by side with this expansion work, the telephone as well as telegraph rates are being progressively reduced. Steps have been taken for the eventual manufacture in India of all telephone equipment including automatic telephone equipment. An organisation has been established in Bangalore under the name of Indian Telephone Industries for this purpose and this is making good progress. It is expected that the Factory will go into production in three years and India will then become self-sufficient in the matter of telephones.

Telegraph communication between India and the other countries of the world is maintained by means of undersea cables and by wireless links. The working of this external communication service was in the hands of a private company till about four years ago. On the 1st January 1947 the Service was taken over by the Government of India and is now being run as a separate Government Department.

Plans are under consideration for duplicating the radio-telephone circuit with the U.K. and opening a direct circuit with the United States. With the establishment of Indian Missions in various European and South American capitals there are also proposals for establishing direct WT circuits with these centres.

CIVIL AVIATION

India with its vast distances and good climate all the year round provides an ideal field for air transport. During the three years that have followed the emergence of India as a Sovereign Independent State, substantial progress has been made in the development of Civil Aviation.

With a route mileage of about 25,800 miles, today ten Indian air transport companies operate on 48 routes by day and by night within and beyond the frontiers of India, linking every Indian city and town of note. Night air services were introduced in India on the 31st January 1949, and at present, scheduled night air services connect the principal towns of India with each other, i.e. Bombay, Calcutta, Delhi and Madras. Operating with cheaper fares, these night services have achieved popularity and have also succeeded in generating fresh air traffic.

Introduction of a weekly service between India and U.K. via Cairo and Geneva, by Air India International heralded the dawn of a new era in the operation of International services by India. In addition to the frequency of this service being increased to four times a week two other new services have also been introduced, one from Bombay to Nairobi and the other from Calcutta to Singapore. Regular air transport services are also being operated by Indian airlines to Burma, Ceylon and Pakistan.

International air services to and across India are operated by B.O.A.C., K.L.M., Air France, Pan American Airways, T.W.A., Scandinavian Airlines System, Broathens, Qantas Empire Airways, Philippine Airlines, Siamese Airways Company, Air Ceylon, Iranian Airways and Orient Airways.

The expansion of air transport services—internal as well as international—has laid additional responsibilities on the Civil Aviation Department of the Government of India to provide passenger terminal, air traffic control, navigational, meteorological, communication and search and rescue facilities. India has been a member of the International Civil Aviation Organisation since its very inception and is striving, within her resources, to provide these facilities upto the standards recommended by that Organisation.

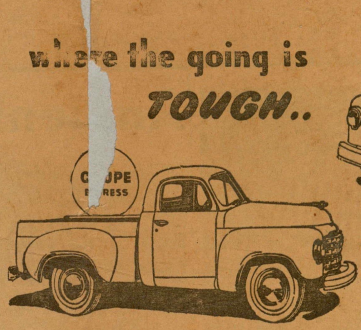
Today, 69 aerodromes are owned, maintained and operated by the Civil Aviation Department. The long-term Civil Aviation capital works programme provides for an orderly development of the network of aerodromes and the high standard of organisation required on the internal and international air routes of the country. The programme provides for the construction of runways, taxi tracks, aprons, angers, workshops, airport terminal buildings, aerodrome lighting and wireless transmitting and receiving stations at different aerodromes.

WIRELESS

The development in the field of aeronautical telecommunication service has also been rapid. Commencing with a handful of stations providing pre-war systems of aeronautical radio communication, the service today has been built upto a strength of 46 stations These stations provide point-to-point communication, air-ground communication and navigational aids, including Radio Range, Eureke beacons, Blind Approach Beacon System and Instrument Landing System.

The development plans of the aeronautical communication services include the installation of uptodate radio navigational approach and landing aids, such as airfield control radar, high power beacons, radio range and long-distance navigational aids. Up-to-date types of Instrument Landing System will be installed in the near future at Bombay and Calcutta. Long range navigational aids are also expected to be installed at Bombay to give coverage to aircraft flying over the sea.

Much still remains to be done in the sphere of civil aviation of distances with the main centres of population far apart, a favourable climate for flying and immense possibilities for economic development. The foundation for future progress has been laid and the pattern of things to come is readily



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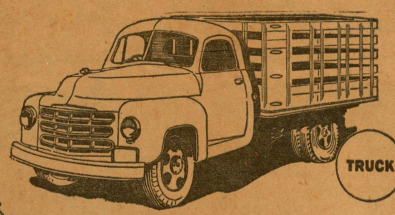

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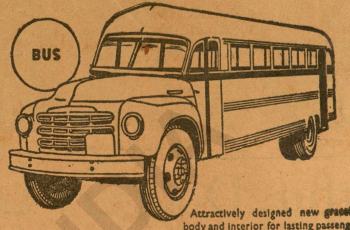

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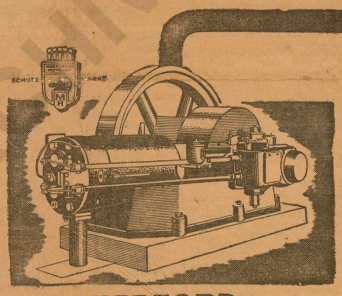

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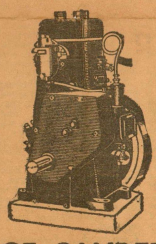

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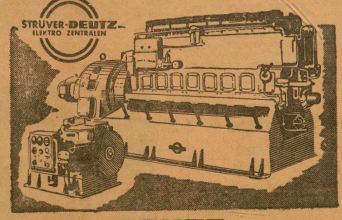

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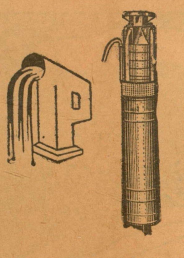

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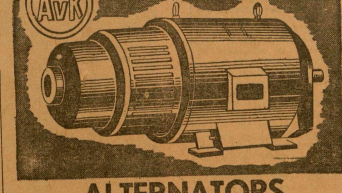

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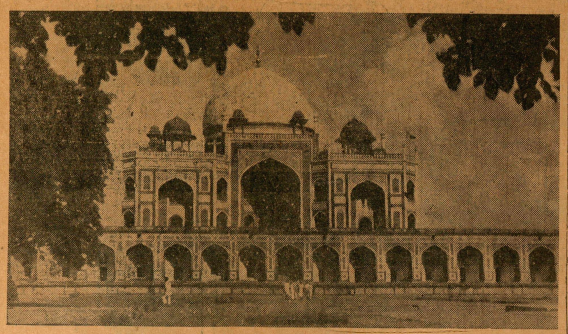


Humayun's Tomb, Delhi.

Artful Dodgers of Taxes

REPLYING to a question in Parliament during its last session, Mr. Chintaman Deshmukh, Finance Minister, said that the amount of taxable income concealed in the cases referred to the Income Tax Investigation Commission was estimated at nearly Rs. 96 crores. This figure which is more than 1/4th of the annual revenue of the Government of India would have, if properly accounted for, yielded an amount of nearly Rs. 50 crores in taxes.

How exactly are these incomes concealed? That is the most intriguing question for those who are engaged in unearthing this hoarded wealth and extracting out of it the share that is due to the National Exchequer. The methods are intricate and varied. Conceived in greed and nurtured by man's limitless capacity for ingenuity, such concealment is often so subtle that not only does it evade the law, but also baffles the keenest intellect in tracking it down. Indeed, the connoisseurs in the profession have reduced it to a fine art. Here is a typical example, unearthed by the Income-tax Investigation Commission:

Different Accounts

A well-known textile distributing agent who had the agencies of 23 mills in India adopted a technique which was calculated to wear out the vigilance of the income-tax authorities by making the field of enquiry too wide so that investigation might become unwieldy and exhausting. He opened a very large number of branches all over the country, many of which were closed after a time and new ones opened. Not less than 123 such concerns in various parts of the country were traced as having been started, promoted, financed or controlled by the assessee. The most common device adopted was to transfer a part of the profits to firms which carried on business ostensibly on their own account but, in fact, for and on behalf of the assessee. The assessee introduced his own funds in the guise of borrowings and deposits by friends and acquaintances. Other methods of concealment such as deflation of sales, inflation of expenses, bifurcation of transactions, employment of spurious names were also practised. The Commission's authorised official was able to trace out, after months of laborious search, at least 100 different sets of accounts in different parts of the country. Only then did the assessee come forward and admit the extent of his concealed income which amounted to Rs. 75 lakhs!

The above is by no means an isolated case, but just one of the many which have been unearthed by the Commission. Interesting as they are, space does not permit a detailed narration of them.

Accumulation of Wealth

To the average Indian whose normal monthly income rarely reaches three figures, these colossal amounts in crores and lakhs, the duplicate sets of account books, the same business functioning in fictitious names at different places may seem somewhat strange. In fact, even the idea of concealment of income does not occur to him as he has hardly anything to conceal. But, during the war and in subsequent years, there was much accumulation of wealth in the hands of a few who, taking advantage of the controls and other circumstances created by the war, made extraordinarily high profits by indulging in practices most of which were not above board. Naturally, it was not in their interest to declare such incomes, as apart from the substantial amount that would have had to be surrendered by way of taxes, the very method by which the income was made of questionable legality. Thus arose efforts at concealment of income and methods of business which by 1947 assumed such serious proportions and threatened to engulf all business morality to such an extent that the Government of India felt compelled to appoint a Commission—the Income-Tax Investigation Commission—to enquire, *inter alia*, into the extent of such concealed income so that steps could be taken to recover the taxes due. The Commission was also to suggest amendments of the law which might plug to some extent at least, the holes through which taxable income escaped taxation.

The Commission originally consisted of the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Varadachariar as Chairman and the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Rajadhyksha and Mr. V. D. Muzumdar as members, with Mr. H. S. Ramaswami as Secretary. After about a year, the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Rajadhyksha left and the Hon'ble Mr. Justice P. B. Chakravarti was appointed Member in his place. During 1948, the Commission was engaged on the first part of the task allotted to it, namely, examination of the income-tax law and its administration with a view to making recommendations as to the changes required.

Concealed Incomes

During 1949 and 1950 the Commission has completed the investigation of 337 cases out of 1,591 referred to it by the Government of India. In these cases an amount of Rs. 11,03,36,869 as concealed income has been reported. As most of this income is liable to supertax and, in addition, to penalty in certain cases, the total yield of tax on the reported amount is expected to be about Rs. 8 crores. The realisation up to October 31, 1950, amounted to Rs. 63 lakhs. The reason for the wide disparity between the amount realised and the amount expected out of the Commission's findings is that the taxes due are usually made payable by instalments. Precautions are taken to ensure that assets of the assessee are not disposed of before the taxes are fully paid. Grant of instalments has been found necessary because in most of the cases the paying capacity of the assessees has been reduced by reason of their indiscreet investments, which have locked up money in assets, yielding little by way of return, and also because shares in which the bulk of the concealed income lies invested, have seriously depreciated in value.

The cases disposed of are of two types: (a) settlement cases and (b) non-settlement cases. The settlement cases are those in which the assessee has finally, after probably a good deal of hedging, admitted a certain amount of concealed income, accepted the findings of the Commission and agreed to pay the taxes due. 'Non-settlement' cases are those in which the Commission has found positive proof of concealment and the extent of such concealment, but the assessees have not admitted evasion of tax and the Commission has had to record its findings against the assessees, on the evidence.

Of the 337 cases disposed of so far, 272 are settlement cases, involving a sum of Rs. 7,59,26,185 and 65 are non-settlement cases involving Rs. 3,44,00,684. The procedure is that after the Commission has given its findings, the cases are referred to the Government of India for making the necessary realisation of taxes due, either in accordance with the agreed instalments in the settlement cases, or by a proper assessment in cases dealt with on an investigation basis.

Those Who Admit?

A number of concessions are granted to persons who make admissions, even though such admissions are delayed. For example, no penalty is imposed, concessional rates are allowed, payments by instalments accepted and, of course, legal prosecutions foregone. In spite of such advantage of a settlement, however, non-settlement cases have not been a few in number and therefore, the Government has prescribed a penalty of 100 per cent in such cases. Even here, the Government have allowed a certain concession, as the normal penalty in case of tax evasion is 150 per cent.

The concession allowed in the settlement cases is particularly generous, for there is little merit or grace in the disclosures which are not made voluntarily, but only when it is found that the Commission has already discovered the concealments. Even then the admission begins with a small figure which is gradually and grudgingly increased, as the Commission goes on confronting the assessee with incontrovertible evidence and the final figure is reached after a protracted discussion—hardly less exacting than a contested proceeding.

Forty Months Of Freedom

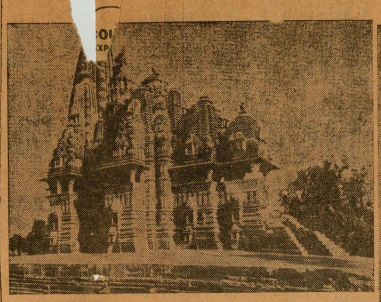
Continued from Page 11

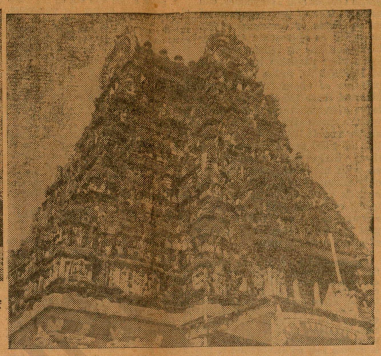
Madras, Poona, Bombay, Nasik Lucknow and Karailkudi bear ample testimony as much to the far-sightedness of the Central Government as to the munificence of private donors and their rapid multiplication. This has necessitated the formation of a new Ministry at the Centre.

Commerce has proved to be as much a puzzle to politicians and economists as to producers and consumers. The muddles associated with jute, sugar and jaggery and yarn are too recent in occurrence and too fresh in public memory to need any elaborate reference here. Government officers are innocent of the intimate knowledge possessed by captains of commerce to grasp readily the effects of any changes initiated by them or suggested by others. This is a drawback of immature swaraj which constitutes a sufficient complication even apart from any possible deviations from standards of rectitude in public conduct. Whether it be food grains that are controlled or yarn and cloth, or jute and cotton or sugar and jaggery or steel and cement, the fact remains that the Government of India is as yet in that infant (ile) stage of progress in walking and running. They work principles of trial and error and they learn by doing. These are inevitable stages that would ultimately lead to the performance of voluntary acts in an involuntary and faultless manner.

Formidble as is the catalogue of reforms effected, still more formidable changes are being attempted in trying to fashion the Hindu Code and refashion the secretariat. The former had suffered deliberate neglect at the hands of the British and the latter assumed a shape and size suited only to a foreign bureaucratic administration.

Ancient Monuments of India



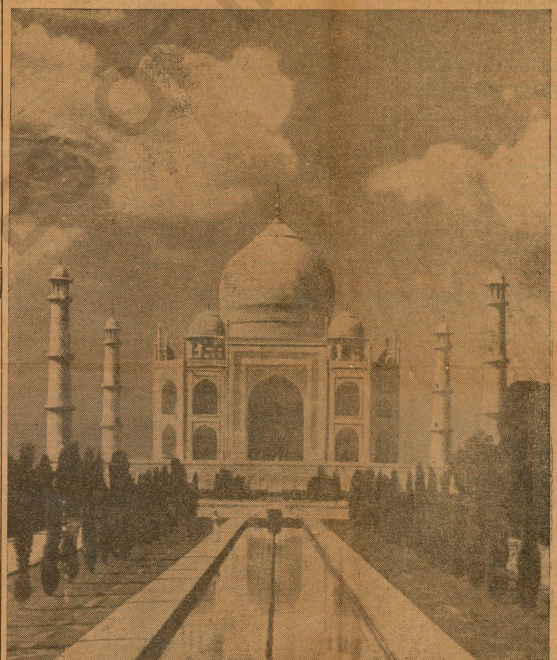


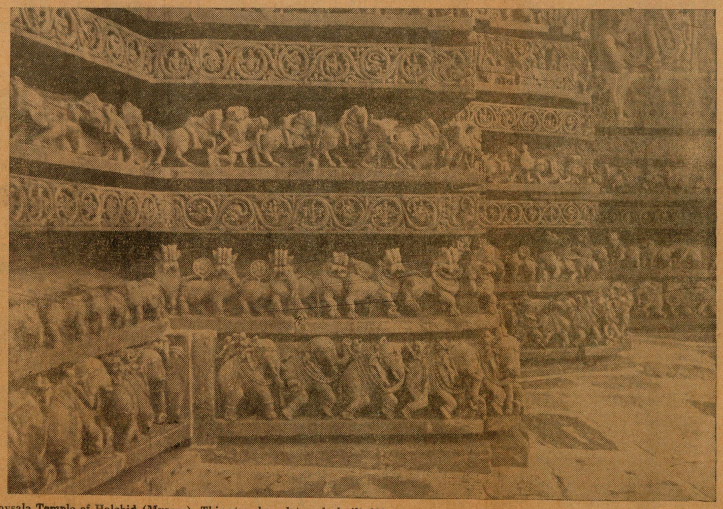
Above:—The Vishwanath Temple. RIGHT:—The temple of Sri Rangam.

THE TAJ

The Moghuls executed to a perfection the artistry and craftsmanship in the architecture of the interiors of edifices. The Taj Mahal, supreme achievement of Mohammadan art, was built (1629-1650) near Agra, by Shah Jahan, as the burial place for his favourite wife, Mumtaz Mahal. It is considered by some to be the most beautiful building in the world, not on account of its admittedly superb appearance in white marble, standing on a marble terrace over the Jumna, and not also on account of its sentimental associations, but certainly because of its unsurpassed and unsurpassable workmanship of every little detail of its interiors, the harmonious blending of line and colour, and the sparing but highly finished ornamental work on marble and mosaic.

Of course, the Taj belongs to the latter-day period of Mohammadan history, when its architecture had practically reached its highest point of perfection and development. But the tradition was there, running right through Mohammedan history, slowly but unmistakably growing stronger and more pronounced through years of experimentation. Bishop Heber writes in his Journal: "These Pathans built like giants, and finished their work like jewellers. Yet their ornaments, florid as they are in their proper places, are never thrown away, or allowed to interfere with the general severe and solemn character of their edifices. (Vol. I., p. 565). And this was long before the predecessors of Shah Jahan had come to India.





Hoysala Temple of Halebid (Mysore). This star-shaped temple built 900 years ago contains many beautiful pieces of Hindu sculpture.

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One Year Of
The Republic
JANUARY
26 India proclaimed a "sovereign democratic republic."
Celebrations all over the country.
28 Supreme Court inaugurated at Delhi.
Members of Parliament sworn in.
Posthumous Maha Vir Chakra awarded to Brig. Usman.
30 Parliament addressed by the President, Dr. Rajendra Prasad.
31 Deshmukh Award on income-tax allotment to States published.
FEBRUARY
1 Debate in Parliament on the President's Address.
4 Justice Bagge Tribunal's award on
disputes.
Indo-Pakistan border
7 Government of India White Paper on Indo-Pakistan Trade Relations published.
12 Kashmir debate in Security Council adjourned.
20
25
Death of Shri Sarat Chandra Bose at Calcutta.
Parliament passed Preventive Detention Bill.
MARCH
6 Death of Dr. Sachchidananda Sinha at Patna.

15 Terms of reference of Planning Commission announced.
APRIL
1 Indian State forces, postal system, income-tax, etc. taken over by Centre.
2 Nehru-Liaquat Talks began in Delhi.
5 Labour Bills referred to Select Committee.
8 Nehru-Liaquat Pact on Minorities signed at Delhi. Dr. S.P. Mookerjee and Mr. K. C. Neogy resigned.
12 Sir Owen Dixon appointed Mediator for Kashmir by the Security Council.
18 International Bank announced third loan of 18.5 million dollars to India for developing Damodar Valley.
MAY
2 Pakistan Press Delegation arrived in India.
Chandernagore merged with Indian Union.
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NAS-405
Prime Minister reshuffled Cabinet.
9 Rajkumari Amrit Kaur elected President of World Health Organisation.

11 India and Pakistan protested against Racial Grouping Bill in South Africa.
30 Sydney Conference concluded: Technical Aid to South-East Asia promised.
29 Shri C. Deshmukh, Shri Sri Prakasa and Shri Ajit Prasad Jain sworn in as new Ministers for Finance, Commerce and Rehabilitation respectively.

JUNE

2 Sir B. N. Rau became President of the Security Council.
Prime Minister Nehru sailed for Indonesia.
7 Shri Nehru addressed Indonesian Parliament in Jakarta.
8 India declined participation in R.T.C. as a sequel to South Africa's attitude in respect of Group Areas Bill.
12 Popular Ministers took office in Hyderabad.
13 Shri Jagjivan Ram elected President of the I.L.O.
23 The President issued an Ordinance deleting section 14 from the Preventive Detention Act, 1950.
29 India agreed to U. N. resolution on the outbreak of hostilities in Korea.

JULY

2 Yusuf Meherally, Socialist leader, died in Bombay.
11 Mission of the People's Republic of China arrived in Calcutta.
14 Prime Minister Nehru appealed to Russia and the U.S.A. for peaceful solution of Korean dispute.
15 Shri C. Rajagopalachari sworn in as Cabinet Minister.
16 Generalissimo Stalin's reply to Prime Minister Nehru's message on Korean crisis received in Delhi.

AUGUST

1 Treaties of friendship and trade and commerce signed between Nepal and India.
6 Mr. G. N. Bardoloi, Chief Minister of Assam died.
11 Parliament approved the Treaty of Friendship signed between India and Iran.
13 Col. Uani Nayar, Indian Delegate to the U. N. Commission on Korea, killed in a mine explosion in Korea.
15 Third anniversary of India's independence celebrated.
16 Upper Assam hit hard by earthquake.

SEPTEMBER

2 Sri Purushottamdas Tandon elected President of Nasik Congress.
9 Gen. Yuan Chung-hsien, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China, arrived in India.
Prime Minister Nehru appealed for contributions to Assam Relief Fund.
17 India Government accorded recognition to Israel.
20 56th Session of the Congress met at Nasik, Sri Purushottamdas Tandon presiding.
30 Indo-Afghan Treaty of Friendship signed.
OCTOBER
2 Gandhiji's birthday celebrations.
3 Pandit Nehru inaugurated the Eleventh Pacific Relations Conference at Lucknow.
5 Direct radio telephone link with Indonesia established.
25 Peking announced invasion of Tibet-The Government of India sent a letter to Peking expressing surprise and regret at the invasion of Tibet.
28 All-India Convention of Working Journalists at Delhi
NOVEMBER
1 Chittaranjan Loco Workshop opened.
2 Democratic Front formed inside the Congress.
7 King of Nepal took refuge in Indian Embassy, Khatmandu.
11 Nepal Ruler arrived in New Delhi.
12 Insurrection in Nepal.
26 Prime Minister opened National Metallurgical Laboratory at Jamshedpur.
27 Nepal's Envoys arrived in Delhi for consultations.
DECEMBER
2 U. N. General Assembly recommended suspension of Group Areas Act in South Africa.
5 Death of Sri Aurobindo.
5 New Treaty signed between Indian and Sikkim.
6 Foreign Affairs debate in Parliament.
15 Death of Sardar Patel.
21 Prime Minister Nehru read to Parliament a memorandum sent to Nepal proposing reforms.
22 Winter Session of Parliament ended.
26 Central Cabinet reshuffled and Ministries regrouped.

28 Indo-U.S. Technical Aid Pact signed.

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The Republic-Day illuminations of the Irwin Stadium
Great Dissenters In
Congress History
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Jayaprakash
By V. Subramania
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ty alternating with flowery hobility towards opponents would cost
speeches of mild criticism lent an
the country dearly in the long run.
Unlike Jawaharlal, who in spite of his
air of drama to them. Tagore has
caught and preserved for us that
semi-artificial atmosphere in his
immortal short story "We Crown
The King." S. N. Bannerjee, Gok-
hale, Mehta and Sastri were the
chief actors in the drama.
Tilak

Then as a bolt from the blue came
Tilak, a man who had shed all fear of
gaol and social calumny, early in his
life.
The lates: of dissenters, Jayapraka
disagreements, accepted Gandhian is the glamour man of Indian polit
leadership because of the personality No mass leader could have served
of the Mahatma and S. Srinivasa Iyen- better probation to leadership than
gar, who kept out of politics unable to for he had seen life firsthand over
wide part of the world during his m
pit himself against the mighty Mahat-
ma, Subhas gave continuous fight to impressionable years. He had worl
Congress rightists as much as to Bri- in the meanest of occupations
tish imperialists. He proved his powers suffered the worst of jail life and 1
of organization at the very start of De Valera has escaped from jail
his political career when, within a organized an effective undergro
single day, he had organized such a movement. He is widely read and
complete 'hartal' against the visit of
the Prince of Wales in Calcutta that
even C. R. Das was wonderstruck.
Subhas & Gandhiji
in
shown a capacity to make big d
sions, viz., during the August mo
ment and now in seceding from
Congress. Thus in experience of
and in the capacity to take firm d
sions, he scores over the intellect
and often vacillating Panditji. Ja
prakash however suffers from divi
loyalties even now.
The mild moderates who first
looked amusedly on him as a fire-eater
soon found that he was an opponent
of the strongest steel, as firm in action
Bose's infinite capacity for pains and
as in speech. When in a futile attempt delving deep into trivial details were
to exclude him from the Congress, matched only by his equally great
the moderates gathered at Surat, they capacity for the loftiest idealism

found that they had counted without politics, philosophy and economics. In the host and the session ended in a judging and assessing men at first sight fiasco. Tilak was the first great dis- shrewdly and in organizing ability, he senter who contributed much to make was greater than the hero of Bardoli the Congress a fighting organization. While in inspiring idealism, personal A matchless scholar, philogist and magnetism and wide popularity, he on trial but the competency of soc
author, his public life gave the lie to was Patch's superior eta the equal of
1
and
It was
Jayaprakash had in the Sardar
opponent worthy of his steel. W
eventual victory of socialism in
land is certain, it will not be howe
the principles of socialism that will
isis or any other party to reconcile
ship and vigorous action go ill to- cripples him as an organizer. The of socialist economy in actual work
gether. He lived the Bhagavatgita in Mahatma, a prophet first and a states- On the other side, Jayaprakash
his life and impregnated the Congress man later, could not help spiritualis- the efficient and unscrupulous comm
with its militant philosophy of action. ing politics while Nehru brought up in ists to contend with, with their 1
Sublimated opportunism
and selfless western education could not help being experience and established position
heroism were the basic principles of secular and western-minded.
the field of labour. The latest diss
his politics. He is the father of the the unique triumph of Subhas's charac. ter thus has no rosy path before
modern Congress, for he prepared the ter that being so deeply learned in with all his ability, for in the crit
ground for Mahatma's work. Truly Hindu philosophy and spiritually in- condition of our new-won freedom,
did Mahatma characterize him as "a clined he could so scrupulously keep fence needs have made caution
giant among men."

his religion and politics absolutely realism the supreme virtues of
hour.
apart. In the moral plane, Mahatma
Das And Motilal
Some Heroines Who
Who Fough
For Indian Freedom
By "Chittra"
The Mahatma cannot be called a dis-
senter in the right sense of the word,
since he practically remained the mas-
ter of the Congress from the time of
his entry to his last moment. With
the reputation of his victories in South
Africa, he was welcomed with open
arms while he set foot on Indian soil.
But after the suspension of Satyagraha
by the Mahatma and his incarceration,
the Congress once again experienced
the throes of a schism. C. R. Das
and Motilal could not silently suffer
his paralysing suspension of political and
activity and allow the Government to struggle, the name of Kasturba
pack the assemblies with their yesmen. Gandhi shines with lustre all her
The Swarajist Party came into being
N the crowded galaxy of how much do we miss her now.
eminent women who made body was frail but her spirit vali
history by their service suffered cheerfully.
sacrifice in the
She was never pessimistic and alw
national
Sucheta Kripalani
Have you ever met that sweet, pc
and the famous constructive wor
She was a member of the C
through their efforts, to fight their bat- own. She was not very much edu- worker
of India-Mrs. Sucheta Kr
tle on the parliamentary front. There cated, and was extremely ortho- lani.
are people who would describe it not dox. She was married to the gress Working

Committee for sev
as a progressive dissent but as a mis- genius of her age. At times she ears and has done good work for r
taken reaction. But no one who thinks found it a tremendous job
of Deshbandhu and Motilal could think
She was a member of the T
gees.
to Legislative Assembly, and now i
member of the Indian Parliament.
of moderation in the same breath for keep pace with him. She had to is a sweet singer and was well kn
struggle hard to understand that for her songs during Gandhiji's pra
they were born fighters.
admire her and find her an extren
Rajaji A Dissenter unique personality and often had meetings. Those who work with
to suffer humiliation and pain. amiable person. She is the wife o
Curiously enough, fate in a mood of She will be long remembered for great thinker and a man who puls
malicious irony had reserved for Rajaji, the moving letter that she wrote is deadlier than sword.
the most ardent follower and inter-
preter of Gandhiji, the role of a dis- to her son, Hiralal, who was per-
senter from him. Rajaji is the most suaded by some Muslims to em-
misunderstood of politicians, praised brace Islam. In the Aga Khan
and blamed always for the wrong rea- Palace Prison in Poona she died
He thought that Pakistan on
sons.
suffering for the country's cause.
Sarojini Naidu
with real brilliance and whose sarca
As a spea
she is eloquent, convincing and rea
able. She is known for honesty of
pose and sterling integrity.
Vijay Lakshmi
Wo
Mrs. Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit is kn
all over the world as India's

leader and as Jawaharlal Nehru's sis
She is charming and intelligent and
been to jail along with her country
basis of a district-wise plebiscite was
worth conceding on principle to catch
the unique opportunity of immediate
power. To him World War II at its turn-
ing point in 1942 appeared an oppor- Mrs. Sarojini Naidu, the song-bird of
during the freedom movements. Sh
tunity that came once only during a Indian politics, the heroine of many a a fine
speaker and a splendid host.
nation's lifetime.
gracious lady of is sweet by temperament and extren
and the
Aruna Asaf Ali
By gaining power platform
in India, they would be helping their unique charm, will always be remem-
courteous. She pleaded India's cas
supporters to win power in Britain and bered by her grateful countrymen for the
U.N.O. with remarkable ability
by taking part in the South-East Asian the services that she rendered to the
several occasions and won world-
country. She inspired the womanhood recognition. In her case, we can ri
War, India would solve all her prob- of India to make great sacrifices and ly say:
"Grow old along with me,
lems of freedom as well as national herself always accepted suffering with best
is yet to be."
reconstruction. This was in essence a smile on her lips. As a leader, she
Rajaji's line of argument. Like Count was great, as an orator remarkable and
Cavour who made Savoy participate as a Governor of a State she was liked
in the Crimean War to gain the right and admired by the officials and non-
of raising the problem of Italy in officials alike. To meet her even for a
Europe's council table, Rajaji could while was to be acquainted with urba- pany
with the Congress, and, perh
nity and culture. Her death was a ter- also with the Socialist Party. Her
not stand and see the golden opportun- rible blow to the whole country and the
ture is a big question mark.
ity not only for freedom but recon- people miss her greatly. Though she the wife
of the Governor of Orissa,

struction as well slip by. To accuse is no more with us, but her spirit will she does not share her husbad's po
him as the Cassandra of Indian poli- always inspire us.
tics and as the indirect author of
Pakistan is the height of folly, for
Congress leadership conceded with
Kamala Nehru
Mrs. Aruna Asaf Ali is the f
leader of the Left and has parted c
Sh
cal views. His approach to problem
cool and constitutional and she i
fire-brand. Her name was a housel
word in the 1942 movement and
effectively challenged the power
bureaucracy and evaded arrest succ
fully. She was the despair of
police, and the hope of her people.
open eyes during peace what Rajaji Kamla Nehru, that kindly light, died
was prepared to concede in principle in harness and could not see much of
during an emergency for very big life. How wonderful it would have been
alive to see her great
stakes. Again by his astuteness, Rajaji had she been
forced Jinnah to make confessions and husband at the helm of affairs and her is
a remarkable woman and has
sion for revolutionary programmes
country free from bondage. She was
admissions on Pakistan which put
a woman with a distinctive personality Prabhavati Devi
people on the alert about the working of her own and was always missed by
Subhas Bose
Prabhavati
ever c
of the League Fuehrer's mind. The her comrades and co-workers when she
Devi is the wife of
country had been grudgingly forced to was not with them. Her body was a
distinguished Socialist leader, Mr. J
admit his wisdom and foresight in a broken flower, but the fragrance of her
Prakash Narayan. She keeps his c

manner least pleasant to him.
patriotic spirit was intoxicating. She pany wherever he goes and looks a
was like a lamp of crystal with a golden him. She is one of the most sin
flame. Her sympathies with the suffer- women that I have have
ing humanity were as great as her across. She enjoyed the confidenc
The greatest of dissenters was cer- hood of India, but was fully aware of plicitly.
soul. She represented the new woman- Gandhiji and always followed him
She is absolutely honest
tainly Subhas, affectionately known in the old values and always stuck to them
she suffered a lot for her count
India as Netaji. Endowed from his firmly and intelligently. She was a re- cause.
She is unostentatious and h
very birth with supreme qualities of markahle woman in many ways and
working.

Indian Jems Chronicl
bu
wwwww
"We are citizens of no mean
country and we are proud
of the land of our birth, of
our people, our culture and
traditions. That pride should
not be for a romanticized
past to which we want to
cling on to; nor should it en-
courage exclusiveness or
want of appreciation of other
ways than ours. It must
never allow us to forget our
many weaknesses and fail-
ings or blunt our longing to
be rid of them. We have a
long way to go and much
leeway to make up before we
can take our proper station
with others in the van of

human civilization and pro-
gress. And we have to hurry,
for the time at our disposal
is limited and the pace of the
world grows ever swifter.
It was India's way in the past
to welcome and absorb other
cultures. That is much more
necessary today for we march
to the One World of tomorrow
where national cultures will
be intermingled with the in-
Zernational culture of the hu-
man race. We shall therefore
seek wisdom and knowledge
and friendship and comrade-
ship wherever we can find
them, and co-operate with
others in common task, but
we are no suppliants for
others' favours and patronage.
Thus we shall remain true
Indians and Asians, and be-
come at the same time good
internationalists and
citizens."
world
-Jawaharlal Nehru.

HAIL
INDIA!

HE day, thou arosest, Mother India, from the ocean's
azure deep,
T
What gladsome accents, what homage high and peals of joy
didst the world upheave!
That day there dawned in the radiance divine, the earth's
deep gloom of night.
"Hail thee, Mother, Nurse of the World, Saviour ours," greeted all
in delight.

Blessed the Earth became at the touch of the lotus-feet of thine,
"Hail India, Mother of the World," the Earth did greet, "O, world's deity divine!"
On thy crest a snowy crown, round thy waist a girdle of waves,
On thy breast a string of pearls-the Rivers Five, Jumna and Ganges-sways.
Thou art aflame awful, Mother dear, sometime, in the drear desert scene,
green.
Then smiling sometime, thy bounty thou scatterest in happy harvest
Blessed the Earth is at the touch of the lotus-feet of thine,
"Hail India, Mother of the World," the Earth does greet, "O, world's deity divine!"
The wind above in the void, blowing and roaring fierce, unceasing,
Melts into cuckoo notes and rolls at thy feet a-kissing.
The clouds above in peals of thunder burst in a deluge of watery shower
And at thy feet a wondrouwery fragrance weaves the forest-bower.
Blessed the Earth is at the touch of the lotus-feet of thine,
"Hail India, Mother of the World," the Earth does greet, "O, world's deity divine!"
Mother! on thy breast the peace, in thy voice the world of cheer,
Thy hands scatter food and thy feet the freedom dear.
Mother! for children thine, what joy and pain dost thou not feel!
Saviour of the universe! Mother India! Nurse of the world's ill!
Blessed the Earth is at the touch of the lotus-feet of thine,
"Hail India, Mother of the World," the Earth does greet, "O, world's deity divine!"
-Dwijendralal Roy
"Just one year has elapsed
since India became a Sovere-
ign Democratic Republic and
the Constitution framed by
Constituent Assembly
Our
came into force..
Constitution has come into
the

force, but we are still passing through a period of transition and are being governed by certain transitory provisions laid down by it.

"Our work as a free nation has just begun. We are confronted with difficulties within and the horizon is overcast with dark clouds without. We have to gird up our God
loins and face them.
helps those who help themselves. Let us deserve God's help.

"We hold and believe that armed conflict and war solve no existing problems but create new ones and with the progress in the invention of destructive weapons now achieved, a war spells ruin and devastation on an unprecedented scale and threatens the extinction of modern civilization. With that conviction our Prime Minister has used all the prestige of his great personality and the goodwill of this country to limit the scope and extent of conflict. The deep wounds of the last World War have not yet been healed even in countries which are supposed to have won it-not to speak of those that lost it. We can only hope and pray

that humanity will be spared
another disaster.
-Rajendra Prasad.
REPUBLIC OF
INDIA
26th January, 1950.
VE THE PEOPLE OF INDIA,
having solemnly resolved to
constitute India into a
SOVEREIGN DEMOCRATIC
REPUBLIC and to secure to
all its citizens:
JUSTICE, social, economic
and political: LIBERTY
thought, expression,
faith and worship:
of
belief,
EQUALITY of status and of
opportunity: and to promote
among them all
FRATERNITY assuring the
dignity of the individual and
the unity of the Nation:
IN OUR CONSTITUENT
ASSEMBLY DO HEREBY
ADOPT, ENACT AND GIVE
TO OURSELVES THIS
CONSTITUTION.
10

A
By Shri Khurshed Lal
now in hand for providing proper build-
ings for Post Offices in which work
may be carried on under reasonable

conditions. The Department is also proceeding ahead with the provision of and other residential accommodation amenities for the staff.

Deputy Minister for Communi cations.

VISITOR to India who travels about the country by air, sees only its big towns with their modern system of Post Offices, Tele- graph Offices and Telephones, can have no idea of the magnitude of its problems of communications. In order to appreciate the pro- blem one has to remember that India after partition has an area

A great strain was put on the Post- al Department during the war years. The work expanded by leaps and bounds and the requirements of staff of the service available to an increas- ingly larger section of the public. A reduction of the basic rates of one an na on ordinary and two annas on the express telegrams has been made. The charges for press telegrams have also been reduced and now 12 annas are charged for the first 50 words instead of the first 40 words for ordinary press telegrams. The maximum trunk tele- phone call charges have been reduced from a unit period from Rs. 16 to Rs. 12 for ordinary and from Rs. 32 to Rs. 24 for urgent calls. The periods of half-rate and one-third rate for trunk calls have been extended and grew at a tremendous pace. Normally, it is proposed to extend the half-rate

recruitment to the Postal Department period still further. The local tele-
is by a competitive examination, but phone rates in a number of towns like
the rules had to be relaxed during the Kanpur, Amritsar, Delhi, Madras and
of 10,66,413 sq. miles with a po- war years. The result was a loss in Ahmedabad
have also been reduced.
pulation of about 320 millions.
Most of these people live in vil-
lages of which there are 1,20,580
with a population of 500 and
above and 16,178 with a popula-
tion of 2,000 and above. Most of
these villages are yet unconnect-
ed with metalled roads and the
only means of reaching them are
bullock carts, while in the hilly
tracts even this means of con-
veyance is not available and the
post has to be carried by means
of mules and runners.
Compared with countries in Europe,
the communication problems in India
are of a continent and not of a coun-
try. This is apparent from the fact
that an inland letter may have to tra-
vel 2,400 miles before reaching its des-
tination and an inland telegram in
India may have to be carried over the
wires for a distance of 2,868 miles. It
is obvious that no development in this
land is possible without a proper sys-
tem of communications which would
provide proper arteries for the healthy
flow of its life blood. It is my pur-
pose in this article to give a brief sur-
vey of the existing means of commu-
nications and what we are planning to
do to expand and develop them.
POST OFFICES
efficiency. The Department is opening

a number of Training Schools to train the existing staff as well as the future entrants. A number of other schemes for providing amenities to the staff are also in hand. The Department is also actively considering several schemes of installation of mechanical equipments for saving labour and time, e.g. conveyor bands, automatic stamp cancelling machines, slot machines for vending postcards and postal stationery.

THE TELEGRAPH

Concurrently with the Postal system the Telegraph system in India is also hundred developing gradually. One years ago almost to the day, what was then the longest telegraph line in the world, was put up in Bengal. Today the telegraph network covers over 7,000,000 miles of wire and the telegraph branch of the Posts and Telegraphs Department contains 89 departmental Telegraph Offices and about 15,000 other offices which handle telegrams. But in spite of this, the telegraph system in India, considering the size and population of the country, is still in its infancy and a large number of isolated towns and villages are without telegraph facilities.

Before the last war, development on the telecommunication side was comparatively small and the result was that in 1941 frantic efforts had to be made to put up additional lines of communications to meet the needs of Defence. During the war, the assets of the Telecommu-

nications branch were almost doubled.

Let me begin with the Post Office.

Although the postal system in India as a regular organisation dates back to the year 1766, its growth has been rather slow. When India achieved dependence on 15th August 1947, the total number of Post Offices in the country was 24,289. This number obviously was too small for the country and there still are thousands and thousands of villages which have no post office or which are visited by a Postman once in a week or a fortnight. The Post-War Plan for the development of Post Offices provided that every village, or a group of villages, with a population of 2,000 should have a Post Office.

The development of telephones in India before the war was even slower. The number of telephones was very small and they were available only in big towns and only the government offices and big business houses had a telephone connection. The demand for telephones grew tremendously during the War, and the Department was faced with great difficulties in providing telephone connections even for essential war requirements. Since the achievement of independence the pace

Shri Krishna Prasada, Director-General, Post and Telegraphs, is seen in the picture booking a telephone call at the Telephone Exchange, during the courtesy week.

of development has been accelerated. Plans have been made to treble the exchange capacity in Calcutta. Work on this project is already in progress.

Steps have been taken for the eventual manufacture in India of all telephone equipment including automatic telephone equipment. An organisation has been established in Bangalore under the name of Indian Telephone Industries for this purpose and this is making good progress. It is expected that the Factory will go into production in three years and India will then become self-sufficient in the matter of telephones.

Telegraph communication between India and the other countries of the world is maintained by means of under-

sea cables and by wireless links. The working of this external communication service was in the hands of a private company till about four years ago. On the 1st January 1947, the Service was taken over by the Government of India and is now being run as a separate Government Department.

Plans are under coneration for duplicating the radio-thone circuit with the U.K. and opening a direct circuit wtih the United States. With the establishment of Indian Missions in various European and South American capitals there are also proposals for establishing direct WT circuits with these centres.

CIVIL AVIATION

India with its vast distances and good climate all the year round provides an ideal field for air transport. During the three years that have followed the emergence of India as a Sovereign Independent State, substantial progress has been made in the development of Civil Aviation.

With a route mileage of about 25,800 miles, today ten Indian air transport companies operate on 48 routes by day and by night within and beyond the frontiers of India, linking every Indian city and town of note. Night air services were introduced in India on the 31st January 1949. and at present. scheduled night air services connect the principal towns of India with each other, i.e. Bombay, Calcutta, Delhi and Madras. Operating with cheaper fares.

these night services have achieved popularity and have also succeeded in generating fresh air traffic.

Introduction of a weekly service between India and U.K. via Cairo and Geneva by Air India International heralded the dawn of a new era in the operation of International services by India. In addition to the frequency of this service being increased to four times a week two other new services have also been introduced, one from Bombay to Nairobi and the other from Calcutta to Singapore. Regular air transport services are also being operated by Indian airlines to Burma, Ceylon and Pakistan.

INDIAN NEW CHRONICLE

International air services to and across India are operated by B.O.A.C., K.L.M., Air France, Pan American Airways, T.W.A., Scandinavian Airlines System, Broathens, Qantas Empire Airways, Philippine Airlines, Siamese: Airways Company, Air Ceylon, Iranian Airways and Orient Airways.

The expansion of air transport services-internal as well as international -has laid additional responsibilities on the Civil Aviation Department of the Government of India to provide passenger terminal, air traffic control, navigational, meteorological, communication and search and rescue facilities. India has been a member of the Aviation Organi-
International Civil
sation since its very inception and is striving, within her resources, to pro-

vide these facilities upto the stand-
ards recommended by that Organisa-
tion.

population of 2,000 should have a post of development of telegraphs and tele-
office so that no man should ordinari- phones has been accelerated.
ly, that is except in sparsely populated During the 5 years commencing from
areas, have to walk more than five 1950-51, the following major schemes
miles to transact business at a post in Telecommunications expansion are
office. In pursuance of this plan 13,125 proposed to be executed:-
Post Offices were opened, mostly in
rural areas, between the 15th August, (i) Installation of 15 automatic tele-
1947 and 31st March, 1950. In April phone exchanges in Calcutta to pro-
This scheme will
this year it was decided that all vil- vide for 54,000 lines.
lages with a population of 2,000 should
be provided with a Post Office by 31st
March 1951. This meant the opening
of above 4,800 new Post Offices in one
year. Out of these about 3,400 have
been opened by now, but it is feared
that the programme will now have to
be slowed down on account of financial
stringency. The Departmen: has also
(iii) Expansion of Madras Auto sys-
carried out experiments with a mobile tem by 3,000 lines.
post office to
rural
(iv) Installation of a 4,000 line ex-
areas. The experiments had to change in Delhi city.
be discontinued because the fin- (v) Installation of automatic ex- less
transmitting and receiving stations
ancial loss was heavy. But the expe- changes covering the entire Bihar Coal- at
different aerodromes.
rience gained is being studied with a field area which is at present very
view to making the experiment in poorly served by telephones.
other parts of the country.
serve
NIGHT AIRMAIL
(ii) Expansion of Bombay telephone

system by 18,200 lines in the first instance and another 20,000 lines subsequently. This will practically double the present exchange capacity.

Today, 69 aerodromes are owned, maintained and operated by the Civil Aviation Department. The long-term Civil Aviation capital works programme provides for an orderly development of the network of aerodromes and the high standard of organisation required on the internal and international air routes of the country. The programme provides for the construction of runways, taxi tracks, aprons, airport terminal
angers, workshops,
buildings, aerodrome lighting and wire-

WIRELESS

(vi) Installation of a 3,000 line automatic exchange at Bangalore.

(vii) Installation of a 1,500 line au- The development in the field of aeronautical telecommunication service has
Simultaneously with the increase in tomatic exchange at Hyderabad. also been rapid. Commencing with a
the number of Post Offices, the Indian
In addition to these large individual handful of stations providing pre-war
Postal Department is also taking steps
to accelera'e the transmission of mails works, automatization of the manual systems of aeronautical radio commu-
of Lucknow and nication, the service today has been
in this country. In a country of vast telephone systems
distances like ours, letters have to tra- Patna, installation of additional equip-
built upto a strength of 46 stations
vel quite a long time before they reach ment in the automatic exchanges at
These stations provide point-to-point
their destination. In order to shorten Amritsar and Kanpur, expansion of the
communication, air-ground communi-
this time, the All-up Mail scheme was exchange capacity at other places and

cation and navigational aids, including
introduced from 1st April 1949. Under opening new exchanges are proposed
Radio Range, Eureke beacons, Blind
this scheme all first class mail which to be undertaken on an average, about
Approach Beacon System and Instru-
has to travel over a route where 25 new telephone exchanges would be ment
Landing System.
air lift is possible is carried by air opened every year.
without any addional surcharge. The
night air mail scheme connecting the
four important towns of Delhi, Calcut-
ta. Bombay and Madras was also in-
troduced primarily with a view to ac-
and Amritsar and New Delhi and Kan- high
colerating the transmission of mails.
The combired result of both these sche. pur. The overhead lines between Bom-
range
mes is that most letters posted in this bay and Thana are to be replaced by
navigational aids.
country after travelling distances can under-ground cables and it is the in- of
Instrument Landing System will be
tention later to keep long distance installed in the near future at Bombay
be delivered the next day. To give an
example, a letter posted in Srinagar cables between Delhi and Bombay and and
Calcutta. Long range navigation-
(Kashmir) in the morning is now deli- Delhi and
vaned in Travancore the next evening,
the distance travelled being over 2,000
miles.
The development plans of the aero-
services in-
To provide addditional trunk out- nautical communication
lets. 12 channel telephone carrier sys- clude the installation of uptodate radio
tems are proposed to be installed bet- navigational approach and landing aids,
airfield control radar,
ween Calcutta and Patna, New Delhi such
beacons,
as
power

and
radio
long-distance
Up-to-date types
Calcutta. These cables al aids are also expected to be install-
would ensure tha: there is no delay ed at Bombay to give coverage to air-
in the trunk service between these craft flying over the sea.
three important cities. Besides link-
ing these major cities by cables, it is
proposed to instal high power wire-
less transmitters at Delhi, Bombay,
Another big problem facing the Post-
al Department is the provision of pro-
per accommodation for Post Office as Calcutta and Madras.
well as for the residence of the staff.
The Postal buildings so far were the
Much still remains to be done in
the sphere of civil aviation of distances
with the main centres of population far
apart, a favourable climate for flying
and immense possibilities for economic
Side by side with this expansion development. The foundation for fu-
most neglected in the country and any work, the telephone as well as tele- ture
progress has been laid and the
odd place was deemed to be good graph rates are being progressively pattern
of things to come is readily
where the going is
TOUGH..
C JPE
ERESS
Spacious luggage
van
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Artful Dodgers of Taxes

REPLYING to a ques- admit the extent of his concealed in-
tion in Parliament come which amounted to Rs. 75 lakhs!
The above is by no means an isolated
during its last session, case, but just one of the many which
Mr. Chintaman Desh- have been unearthed by the Commis-
sion. Interesting as they are,
mukh, Finance Minis- does not permit a detailed narration of
space
ter, said that the them.
amount of taxable income con-
cealed in the cases referred to
the Income Tax Investigation

Commission was estimated at nearly Rs. 96 crores. This figure which is more than 14th of the annual revenue of the Government of India would have, if properly accounted for, yielded an amount of nearly Rs. 50 crores in taxes.

How exactly are these incomes concealed? That is the most intriguing question for those who are engaged in unearthing this hoarded wealth and extracting out of it the share that is due to the National Exchequer. The methods are intricate and varied. Conceived in greed and nurtured by man's limitless capacity for ingenuity, such concealment is often so subtle that not only does it evade the law, but also baffles the keenest intellect in tracking it down. Indeed, the connoisseurs in the profession have reduced it to a fine art. Here is a typical example, unearthed by the Income-tax Investigation Commion:

Different Accounts

A well-known textile distributing agent who had the agencies of 23 mills in India adopted a technique which was calculated to wear out the vigilance of the income-tax authorities by making the field of enquiry too wide so that investigation might become unwieldy and exhausting. He opened a very large number of branches all over the country, many of which were closed after a time and new ones opened. Not less than 125 such concerns in various parts of the country were traced as

having been started, promoted, financed or controlled by the assessee. The most common device adopted was to transfer a part of the profits to firms which carried on business ostensibly on their own account but, in fact, for and on bhalf of the assessee. The assessee introduced his own funds in the guise of borrowings and deposits by friends and acquaintances. Other methods of concealment such as deflation of sales, inflation of expenses, bifurcation of transactions, employment of spurious names were also practised. The Commission's authorised official was able to trace out, after months of laborious search, at least 100 different sets of accounts in different parts of the country. Only then did the assessee come forward and reaches three

Accumulation of Wealth

To the average Indian whose normal monthly income rarely

figures, these colossal amounts in crores and lakhs, the duplicate sets of account books, the same business functioning in fictitious names at different places may seem somewhat strange. In fact, even the idea of concealment of income does not occur to him as he has hardly anything to conceal. But, during the much accumulation of wealth in the war and in subsequent years, there was hands of a few who, taking advantage of the controls and other circumstances created by the war, made extraordinarily high profits by indulging in practices most of which were not above board. Naturally, it was not in their

interest to declare such
incomes, as
apart from the substantial amount that would have had to be surrendered by way of taxes, the very method by which the income was made of questionable legality. Thus arose efforts at concealment of income and methods of business which by 1947 assumed such serious proportions and threatened to engulf all business morality to such an extent that the Government of India felt compelled to appoint a Commission-the Income-Tax Investigation Commission to enquire, inter alia, into the extent of such concealed income so that steps could be taken to recover the taxes due. The Commission was also to suggest amendments of the law which might plug, to some extent at least, the holes through which taxable income escaped taxation.

The Commission originally consisted of the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Varadachariar as Chairman and the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Rajadhyksha and Mr. V. D. Muzumdar as members, with Mr. H. S. Ramaswami as Secretary. After about a year, the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Rajadhyaksha left and the Hon'ble Mr. Justice P. B. Chakravarti was appointed Member in his place. During 1948, the Commission was engaged on the first part of the task allotted to it, namely, examination of the income-tax law and its administration with a view to making recommendations as to the changes required.

Concealed Incomes

During 1949 and 1950 the Commission has completed the investigation of 337 cases out of 1,391 referred to it by the Government of India. In these cases, an amount of Rs. 11,03,26,869 as concealed income has been reported. most of this income is liable to super-

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As tax and, in addition, to penalty in certain cases, the total yield of tax on the reported amount is expected to be about Rs. 8 crores. The realisation up to October 31, 1950, amounted to Rs. 85 lakhs. The reason for the wide disparity between the amount realised and the amount expected out of the Commission's findings is that the taxes due are usually made payable by instalments. Precautions are taken to ensure that assets of the assessee are not disposed of before the taxes are fully paid. Grant of instalments has been found necessary because in most of the cases the paying capacity of the assessees has been reduced by reason of their indiscreet investments, which have locked up money in assets, yielding little by way of return, and also because shares in which the bulk of the concealed income lies invested, have seriously depreciated in value.

The cases disposed of are of two types: (a) settlement cases and (b) non-settlement cases. The settlement cases are those in which the assessee has finally, after probably a good deal of hedging, admitted a certain amount of concealed income, accepted the findings of the Commission and agreed to pay the taxes due. 'Non-settlement' cases are those in which the Commission has found positive proof of concealment and the extent of such concealment, but the assessees have not admitted evasion of tax and the Commission has had to record its findings against the assessees, on the evidence.

settlement

Of the 337 cases disposed of so far, 272 are settlement cases, involving a sum of Rs. 7,59,26,185 and 65 are non-cases involving Rs. 3,44,00,684. The procedure is that after the Commission has given its findings, the cases are referred to the Government of India for making the necessary realisation of taxes due, either in accordance with the agreed instalments in the settlement cases, or by a proper assessment in cases dealt with on an Investigation basis.

Those Who Admit?

A number of concessions are granted to persons who make admissions, even though such admissions are delayed. For example, no penalty is imposed, concessional rates are allowed, ments by instalments accepted and, of pay-

course, legal prosecutions, foregone. In

spite of such advantage of a settlement, however, non-settlement cases have not been a few in number and the Government has prescribed a penalty of 100 per cent in such cases. Even here, the Government have allowed a certain concession, as the normal penalty in case of tax evasion is 150 per cent.

therefore,

The concession allowed in the settlement cases is particularly generous, for there is little merit or grace in the disclosures which are not made voluntarily, but only when it is found that the Commission has already discovered the concealments. Even then the admission begins with a small figure which is gradually and grudgingly increased, as the Commission goes on confronting the assessee with incontrovertible evidence and the final figure is reached after a protracted discussion-hardly less exacting than a contested proceeding.

Forty Months
Of Freedom

Continued from Page 11

Madras, Poona, Bombay, Nasik Lucknow and Karailkudi bear ample testimony as much to the foresightedness of the Central Government as to the munificence of private donors and their rapid multiplication. This i has necessitated the formation of a! new Ministry at the Centre.

Commerce has proved to be as much a puzzle to politicians and economists as to producers and consumers. The

muddles associated with jute, sugar and jaggery and yarn are too recent in occurrence and too fresh in public memory to need any elaborate reference here. Government officers are innocent of the intimate knowledge possessed by captains of commerce to grasp readily the effects of any changes initiated by them or suggested by others. This is a drawback of immature swaraj which constitutes a sufficient complication even apart from any possible deviations from standards of rectitude in public conduct. Whether it be food grains that are controlled or yarn and cloth, or jute and cotton or sugar and jaggery or steel and cement, the fact remains that the Government of India is as yet in that infant (ile) stage of progress in walking and running. They work principles of trial and error and they learn by doing. These are inevitable stages that would ultimately lead to the performance of voluntary acts in an involuntary and faultless manner.

Formidble as is the catalogue of reforms effected, still more formidable changes are being attempted in trying to fashion the Hindu Code and refashion the secretariat. The former had suffered deliberate neglect at the hands of the British and the latter assumed a shape and size suited only to a foreign bureaucratic administration.

Above:-The Vishwanath Temple. RIGHT: The temple of Sri Rangam.

THE TAJ

The Moghuls executed to

a perfection the artistry and craftsmanship in the architecture of the interiors of edifices. The Taj Mahal, supreme achievement of Mohammadan art, was built (1629-1650) near Agra, by Shah Jahan, as the burial place for his favourite wife, Mumtaz Mahal. It is considered by some to be the most beautiful building in the world, not on account of its admittedly superb appearance in white marble, standing on a marble terrace over the Jumna, and not also on account of its sentimental associations, but certainly because of its unsurpassed and unsurpassable workmanship of every little detail of its interiors, the harmonious blending of line and colour, and the sparing but highly finished ornamental work on marble and mosaic. Of course, the Taj belongs to the latter-day period of Mohammadan history, when its architecture had practically reached its highest point of perfection and development. But the tradition was there, running right through Mohammedan history, slowly but unmistakably growing stronger and more pronounced through years of experimentation. Bishop Heber

writes in his Journal: "These Pathans built like giants, and finished their work like jewellers. Yet their ornaments, florid as they are in their proper places, are never thrown away, or allowed to interfere with the general severe and solemn character of their edifices. (Vol. I., p. 565). And this was long before the predecessors of Shah Jahan had come to India.

F

Hoysala Temple of Halebid (Mysore). This star-shaped temple built 900 years ago contains many beautiful pieces of Hindu sculp ture.

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